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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 71
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY
Nick L. Salazar

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT, THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TO
COOPERATE IN PRESERVING THE GLORIETA BATTLEFIELD BY REALIGNING
NEW MEXICO STATE ROAD 50.

WHEREAS, on November 8, 1990, the president of the United
States signed Public Law 101-536 to protect the six hundred
eighty-two acres of historically and culturally significant
land on which the battle of Glorieta pass was fought by
creating the Glorieta unit of Pecos national historical park;
and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 1997, congress amended the National
Trails System Act to authorize and establish the Santa Fe
national historic trail, extending from Old Franklin, Missouri,
to Santa Fe, as a component of the national trails system to

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1 promote the preservation of and public access to this
2 historically significant national resource; and

3 WHEREAS, the battle of Glorieta pass occurred along the
4 Santa Fe trail and proved to be the turning point in the Civil
5 War in the far west by preventing confederate acquisition of
6 the Colorado and California gold fields and any acquisitions
7 further west; and

8 WHEREAS, Glorieta battlefield and the Santa Fe trail are
9 important to New Mexico and the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, Glorieta battlefield is hallowed ground, yet is
11 not safe for the public to visit because it is bisected by New
12 Mexico state road 50; and

13 WHEREAS, Glorieta battlefield has been listed by the Civil
14 War preservation trust as one of America's most endangered
15 battlefields; and

16 WHEREAS, addressing the future of New Mexico state road 50
17 is the key to opening the battlefield for public visitation and
18 education regarding the Santa Fe trail and the Civil War in New
19 Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, the restoration of Glorieta battlefield could,
21 within ten years, result in more than three million dollars
22 (\$3,000,000) of additional tourism-related revenue each year
23 and the creation of more than one hundred eighty jobs; and

24 WHEREAS, the state highway and transportation department
25 and the federal highway administration in 1996 discontinued

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1 their study of alternative alignments for New Mexico state road
2 50, citing a lack of funds to undertake any realignment;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state highway and transportation
5 department, the national park service and the federal highway
6 administration be requested to resume a study of alternative
7 alignments for New Mexico state road 50 through Glorieta
8 battlefield; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies be requested to
10 seek funding for the study from sources beyond the state's
11 allocation of federal highway funds; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
14 state highway and transportation department, the national park
15 service, the federal highway administration and the office of
16 cultural affairs.